What is claimed is:

1. A computer readable medium on which is embedded computer software, the software comprising:

a base class that defines a parent-child relationship by which a child object is stored within the storage space of its parent object;

an inline class, wherein the inline class is an extension of the base class and wherein a member of the inline class is permitted to be a child object but prohibited from being a parent object; and

a container class, wherein the container class is an extension of the base class and wherein a member of the container class is permitted to be a child object and/or a parent object;

whereby a well-formed document can be modeled in software using members of the inline and/or container classes.

2. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the document is a markup language document.

3. The computer readable medium of claim 2 wherein the markup language is selected from the group consisting of HTML, XML, XHTML and SGML.

4. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the software further comprises:

an extension of the inline class.

5. The computer readable medium of claim 4 wherein the extension of the inline class corresponds to a document item selected from a group consisting of comment text, formatted text, embedded text, an image, an anchor, a paragraph marker, a line break and a horizontal rule.

6. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the software further comprises:

an extension of the container class.

7. The computer readable medium of claim 6 wherein the extension of the container class corresponds to a document item selected from a group consisting of a bold text item, a horizontally centered item, a table, a subdocument and a selection list.

8. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the container class corresponds to a document item in which other items can be nested.

9. The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the software further comprises:

an extension to an extension of the inline and/or container classes.

10. A method for use in developing a document-producing computer program, the method comprising the step of utilizing a set of classes, the set of classes comprising:

a base class that defines a parent-child relationship by which a child object is stored within the storage space of its parent object;

an inline class, wherein the inline class is an extension of the base class and wherein a member of the inline class is permitted to be a child object but prohibited from being a parent object; and

a container class, wherein the container class is an extension of the base class and wherein a member of the container class is permitted to be a child object and/or a parent object.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the document is a markup language document.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the markup language is selected from the group consisting of HTML, XML, XHTML and SGML.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the set of classes further comprises:

an extension of the inline class.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the extension of the inline class corresponds to a document item selected from a group consisting of comment text, formatted text, embedded text, an image, an anchor, a paragraph marker, a line break and a horizontal rule.

15. The method of claim 10 wherein the set of classes further comprises:

an extension of the container class.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the extension of the container class corresponds to a document item selected from a group consisting of a bold text item, a horizontally centered item, a table, a subdocument and a selection list.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein the container class corresponds to a document item in which other items can be nested.

18. The method of claim 10 wherein the set of classes further comprises:

an extension to an extension of the inline and/or container classes.

19. The method of claim 10 wherein the utilizing step comprises:

linking to a library containing the set of classes; and

programmatically invoking an extension of the inline and/or container classes.

20. A computer readable medium on which is embedded a document-producing computer program, the computer program comprising a product of a method, the method comprising the step of utilizing a set of classes, the set of classes comprising:

a base class that defines a parent-child relationship by which a child object is stored within the storage space of its parent object;

an inline class, wherein the inline class is an extension of the base class and wherein a member of the inline class is permitted to be a child object but prohibited from being a parent object; and

a container class, ~~wherein the container class is an extension of the base~~ class and wherein a member of the container class is permitted to be a child object and/or a parent object.